

DIPLOMATICALLY SPEAKING

By SELWA ROOSEVELT



Venezuelans Talked Too Long, Thus Celebrate Holiday July 5

If it hadn't been for a few loquacious Venezuelans, their national holiday would have been on July 4, just like ours.

Back when Venezuela proclaimed her independence from Spain, her founding fathers decided to issue their independence proclamation on July 4 and thus carry on in the tradition of the United States.

The group met July 4 to discuss the wording of the proclamation; they debated all night on the proper phrasing of this historic message. But when they finally stopped talking it was already July 5.

So that's the reason the Venezuelan Ambassador and Senora de Gonzalez celebrated their national holiday yesterday with a large and elaborate embassy party marking the 147th anniversary of Venezuela's independence.

Despite the heat, threatening thunder clouds and general mass exodus from Washington over the Fourth of July, the embassy party drew some 800 from Washington society.

One of the capital's most beautiful hostesses, Senora de Gonzalez wore a sheath dress of watered silk taffeta with a tiny chiffon bolero.

Throughout the embassy, exotic tropical flowers were used—bird of paradise, Ti leaves, Indian head ginger, Kahili gingers, anthurium, sprays of dendrobium, orchid sprays, papyrus leaves and psittacorum.

A large buffet was arranged in the dining room, another outside under a marquee and still a third downstairs in the recreation room. All the food—except the pastries—was prepared in the embassy, with two cooks and three helpers working steadily for three days.

Col. Kieffer Decorated

In the midst of all the festivities, Ambassador Gonzalez took time out for a brief decoration ceremony to present the Order of Francisco de Miranda to Lt. Col. John Elmer Kieffer.

Standing under the huge oil portrait of Simon Bolivar, the ambassador read a citation lauding Col. Kieffer for his outstanding feats as a soldier and a scholar. More specifically, he praised the colonel for his lectures and instruction to the Venezuelan Armed Forces.

Last night's party gave Senora de Gonzalez a chance to say goodbye for the summer to her Washington friends. She leaves tomorrow for Caracas and the ambassador will join her there later.

Among those who came were Mrs. Herbert Hoover, Jr., who says she'll be spending the summer here; Mrs. John W. Simmons, whose husband returns from Europe tomorrow and who brought the Secretary of State and Mrs. Dulles regrets that they would not be back from Duck Island in time for the reception. The Dullese will return on Monday.

Mrs. Brownell Attends

Mrs. Brownell, wife of the Attorney General, came with her daughter, Joan, who proudly wore her new engagement ring—a large diamond solitaire. Joan says she won't be married until next summer, after she completes her junior year at college. And then after her wedding she hopes to finish her senior year.

"Pat Priest got married and continued in school and her grades went up from C's to the honor roll, and I hope the same will happen to me," she said.

Col. Robert Guggenheim reports his wife, Polly, is doing well after her recent heart attack and the doctors say she can go to White Sulphur Springs for a vacation from August 15 until after Labor Day.

Former Ambassador Joseph

Davies says he might go to Japan this summer to visit his friend, Prime Minister Shigemitsu. . . . The Brazilian OAS Ambassador and Mme. Lobo were in evening clothes en route to a dinner in honor of the departing Brazilian Ambassador and Mme. Muniz, which was given last night at the Congressional Country Club by members of official Brazilian missions here. Colombia's Ambassador Urrutia (his wife's at Rehoboth) was sporting a terrific suntan, as was Belgium's Ambassador Silvercruys, who's just returned from Nantucket.

Also seen were the Argentine Ambassador and Senora de Vicchi, Italy's Ambassador

Brosio, France's Couve de Murville, Ambassador Berckemeyer of Peru, and, in fact, nearly all the chiefs of mission who are still in town.

A very attractive couple, relatively new in Washington, were the German Counselor, Rolfe Pauls, and his lovely wife. Also seen were Gen. and Mrs. Charles Cabell, Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Graves, British Minister John Coulson, the Sam Waugh's, Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Bell, Mrs. Morris Cafritz, Mrs. Randall Hagner, Mr. Edgar Morris and his sister, Miss Mary Morris, Mr. and Mrs. Victor Purse, Mrs. Ray Henle, Mrs. Myron Cowen and many more.